



Rapid Bridge Repair Workshop Public Outreach Issues

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Once Upon A Time ...

The public had a higher tolerance and more willingness to endure inconvenience in the name of progress.



Courtesy Texas Transportation Institute



"It was completely different back then — people wanted the highways, and were willing to sacrifice to get them built."

-- Luther DeBerry
retired Texas state highway engineer

Times, And Attitudes, Have Changed!



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The Challenges We Face

- Aging bridges = many more projects planned
- Project complexity
- Traffic Management Plans
- Public outreach/notification
- More Federal projects
- Increasing traffic volumes
- Allowable work hours and lane restrictions
- Other considerations (lighting, noise, etc.)
- Safety of workers and motorists



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We Must Change Too

The Million-Dollar Question:

How do we adjust our work to keep up with all the changes and still maintain our bridges in good condition?

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How Do We Respond?

- **Awareness**
- **Understanding**
- **Flexibility**
- **Willingness to share and provide information**
- **Partner with contractors and others**
- **Ability to adapt and use new techniques and technology**
- **Look for opportunities to try new techniques and technologies (within reason, of course!)**

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New Tools for New Times

- Permanent and portable message boards
- Highway Advisory Radio
- 511 messages
- 511 Virginia Web site
- News releases/Traffic alerts
- Temporary traffic cameras
- Targeted information campaigns
 - Flyers, public meetings, personal visits, email lists
- Advertising (TV, radio, newspaper, other)
- Emerging technologies



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Why Bother?

What's In It For Us?

- Increased safety for our workers and the public
- Positive public perception
- Potential for more rapid project completion
- Public education of need for these projects
- An improved highway system



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Use the Tools

- Requires coordination, involvement and commitment to the approach
- Assemble a multi-disciplinary team early in the planning process
- When looking at the project from their perspective, team members may see challenges – or opportunities
- Teamwork and involvement is a learning opportunity!

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Plan It, Work It, Evaluate It

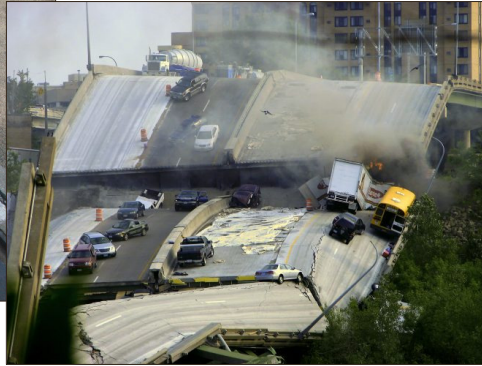
- Consider all options
- Reconsider – Has anything been overlooked?
- Agree on the plan
- Set a reasonable timeline
- Evaluate and revise if necessary
- Keep revising if conditions change again
- “After-Action Review” – What worked, what didn’t?
- Learn the lessons and apply to next project

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Public Outreach Is Essential

Establish A Process For All Projects So Everyone
Involved Becomes Familiar with What Is Expected



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